



Town of Groton, Connecticut

45 Fort Hill Road
Groton, CT 06340-4394
Town Clerk 860-441-6640
Town Manager
860-441-6630

Meeting Minutes

Representative Town Meeting

Moderator Kevin Power, Representatives Jean-Claude Ambroise, Joe Baril, Nancy E. Barnhart, Alicia Bauer, Nancy E. Beckwith, Michael Collins, Nancy M. Congdon, Warren T. Cooper, Luanne E. DeMatto, Syma Ebbin, Nancy E. Gilly, Patrice Granatosky, Dolores Harrell, Keith L. Hedrick, Jonathan Heller, Lynn Crockett Hubbard, Michael Dean Johnson, Rosanne E. Kotowski, Elizabeth Luck, Jackie Massett, Carole McCarthy, Roscoe Merritt, Constance Miller, Karen F. Morton, Scott Newsome, Dana C. Parfitt, Richard J. Pasqualini, Jr., Tim Plungis, Kristen L. Powers, Don Pratt, Betty A. Prochaska, John F. Scott IV, Jack Sebastian, Dana S. Semeraro, Joan Steinfeld, Irma Streeter, Mark Svencer, Archie C. Swindell, Robert A. Warn and Lori A. Watrous

Wednesday, September 14, 2011

7:30 PM

Groton Senior Center

Regular Meeting

A. ROLL CALL

*Moderator Kevin Power called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.
26 members were present, and a quorum was declared.*

The Moderator reported that Reps. Baril, Congdon, Miller, Powers, Prochaska, Scott, Sebastian, Steinfeld and Watrous called to say they are unable to attend this meeting.

Members Present: Moderator Power, Rep. Ambroise, Rep. Barnhart, Rep. Beckwith, Rep. Cooper, Rep. DeMatto, Rep. Ebbin, Rep. Gilly, Rep. Granatosky, Rep. Harrell, Rep. Hedrick, Rep. Heller, Rep. Hubbard, Rep. Kotowski, Rep. Luck, Rep. Massett, Rep. McCarthy, Rep. Merritt, Rep. Morton, Rep. Parfitt, Rep. Pasqualini Jr., Rep. Plungis, Rep. Semeraro, Rep. Streeter, Rep. Swindell and Rep. Warn
Members Absent: Rep. Baril, Rep. Bauer, Rep. Collins, Rep. Congdon, Rep. Johnson, Rep. Miller, Rep. Newsome, Rep. Powers, Rep. Pratt, Rep. Prochaska, Rep. Scott, Rep. Sebastian, Rep. Steinfeld, Rep. Svencer and Rep. Watrous

Also present were Town Manager Mark Oefinger, Superintendent of Schools Paul Kadri, Town Clerk Betsy Moukawsher and Assistant Town Clerk Sally Whitney.

B. MOMENT OF SILENCE AND SALUTE TO THE FLAG

The members observed a moment of silence followed by the Salute to the Flag led by Rep. Plungis.

C. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF JULY 13, 2011

*A motion that the minutes be approved was made by Rep. Luck, seconded by Rep. Ambroise.
The vote to approve the minutes carried 22 in favor, 4 abstentions. (Abstaining: Reps. Beckwith, Ebbin, Plungis and Streeter.)*

D. CITIZENS' PETITIONS

None.

E. RECEPTION OF COMMUNICATIONS

Moderator Power welcomed Jonathan Heller who was elected at a District 7 caucus held prior to this meeting to replace Peter Fairbank who resigned.

2011-0183 Various Board of Education Budgetary Questions

VARIOUS BOARD OF EDUCATION BUDGETARY QUESTIONS

This matter was Referred to the RTM Education Committee.

Moderator Power stated that various Board of Education budgetary questions had been submitted by Rep. Kotowski and that he feels a referral to the RTM Education Committee is in order. He

noted that the list of questions will be forwarded to the Superintendent's office.

F. REPORT OF THE TOWN MANAGER

1. Financial report

Mr. Oefinger reported that the Fund Balance as of June 30, 2011 is approximately \$8.7 million; the General Contingency balance is \$350,000; the Capital Reserve balance is \$978,182. He noted that the increase to the Capital Reserve balance is attributable to FYE2012 revenue contributions from the General Fund and Water Pollution Control Fund and the fact that FYE2012 Capital Reserve Projects are reflected in the Capital Reserve Fund.

2. Monthly briefing

The Town Manager highlighted various items from the Town Manger's News and answered members' questions regarding the annual surplus sale, hazardous waste collection and the Mystic Streetscape project.

Rep. Ambroise suggested that agendas and minutes be emailed to Town Councilors and RTM members as a cost saving measure.

The Town Clerk and the Manager noted that the Town's web site and email are utilized for posting newsletters, agendas, minutes and notices. Members of the Council and RTM can be notified of meetings by email, but they would have to print their own materials for the meetings. The Town Manager stated that a trial was done with the Town Council and it did not prove successful.

The Town Clerk noted that some RTM members do not use computers, but that it should be the body's decision how to deal with this issue.

G. REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

Mr. Kadri reported that Hurricane Irene used three out of four snow days allotted in the school calendar. He noted that the Board of Education (BOE) has approved adjusting the current school calendar and extending the school year by a week. He reported on many items and changes affecting education, including an increase in student enrollment, new school schedule at all elementary and middle schools, Kindergarten and first grade class size, and the Advanced World Language program.

Rep. Granatosky requested that the Superintendent seek a resolution for problems with the Grasso Tech and Marine Science Schools' bus schedule for Groton students. She stated that the current schedule forces Grasso students to wait 30 minutes on the bus at the Marine Science School.

Mr. Kadri addressed a concern raised about student qualifications for the middle school World Language program. He clarified the duties and funding of the new grant investigator position and pointed out that significant educational efficiencies will be gained by this position.

H. LIAISON REPORTS

No reports.

I. COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. FINANCE - Chairman Hedrick

Chairman Hedrick read the minutes of the meeting held on September 14, 2011. (Minutes are attached.)

Motion to approve the minutes was made by Rep. Beckwith, seconded by Rep. Luck and so voted unanimously.

2011-0120

Review of Non-Union Positions

REVIEW OF NON-UNION POSITIONS (BOARD OF EDUCATION)

This matter was Re-referred to the RTM Finance Committee.

Rep. Swindell requested comparative information of public and private sector wages and benefits in our region.

Rep. Ambroise confirmed that his intent was to request similar information from the BOE.

The Moderator clarified that the information received by the RTM Finance Committee will be attached to these minutes so that all members will receive it.

2. COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT & SERVICES - Chairman Pratt

No meeting, no report.

3. EDUCATION - Chairman Swindell

No meeting, no report.

4. RECREATION - Chairman Warn

No meeting, no report.

5. PUBLIC SAFETY - Chairman Parfitt

No meeting, no report.

6. PUBLIC WORKS - Chairman Collins

No meeting, no report.

7. RULES & PROCEDURES - Chairman Scott

No meeting, no report.

J. OTHER BUSINESS

2011-0184 Feasibility Study of Consolidation of Various Town & BOE Departments

FEASIBILITY STUDY OF CONSOLIDATION OF TOWN & BOE HUMAN RESOURCES,
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY & FINANCE DEPARTMENTS

This matter was Referred to the RTM Consolidation Committee.

Rep. Pasqualini requested that the Moderator form a new committee with a primary mission to explore consolidation of the following Town and BOE departments: Human Resources, Information Technology and Finance.

The Moderator agreed that creation of a new committee is allowed by RTM rule 6.3 as long as it does not duplicate a standing committee. He stated that he will appoint a chair and asked for volunteers to contact him. He suggested that individuals from the RTM Finance and Education Committees be involved.

K. ADJOURNMENT

A motion to adjourn at 9:19 p.m. was made by Rep. Pasqualini, seconded by Rep. Swindell and so voted unanimously.

Attest:

*Betsy Moukawsher, Town Clerk
Clerk of the RTM*

Sally A. Whitney, Assistant Town Clerk